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LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to the verbal message which, on 29 November 1996, the members of the Security Council asked me to convey to His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), regarding the election of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter which Mr. Biya addressed to the heads of State of OAU members. In it, he asked those who wished to put forward candidates to notify the Security Council directly and to inform him of their action.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean Marc MPAY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Plenipotentiary

Annex

Letter dated 29 November 1996 from the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the heads of States members of the Organization

As you are aware, the thirty-second summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) requested me to take the necessary steps with States Members of the United Nations in order to ensure that Africa is granted a second term of five years at the head of the Secretariat of the United Nations. The candidature of the present Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was endorsed at the summit.

As I had been entrusted to do, I officially presented that position to the General Assembly on 24 October 1996. In the same spirit, I have conducted intensive consultations with members of the Security Council and with other Member States.

However, owing to the veto wielded by one of the permanent members of the Security Council, those efforts have been unsuccessful.

Nevertheless, as far as I am aware, the Security Council still appears to favour the idea of Africa being represented for a second term in the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

It would appear from my numerous contacts, and from the consultations I have held, that in order to ensure that Africa has the opportunity to serve a second five-year term, the time has come for African States which wish to do so to put forward other suitable candidates, in addition to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Those States may contact the Security Council directly, and inform the current Chairman of OAU of their action.

In view of the urgency of this issue, I should be grateful if you would send me your reply as soon as possible.

(Signed) Paul BIYA